Appl. No. 10/644,936
Reply dated August 1, 2007
Response to Office Action Mailed April 12, 2007

Docket No. NIT-391

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. - 25.  (Canceled)

26.  (Currently Amended)  A computer system comprising:

a management computer storing ~~one or more~~ a first program~~programs~~;

~~a plurality of~~ one or more devices coupled to said management computer via a network and storing a second program; and

a first computer coupled to said management computer via the network,

_____ wherein said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices and said second program are not ~~being~~ disclosed to said first computer,~~,~~

wherein said management computer:

stores association information related to an association between said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~ and said second program,

receives, from said first computer, a first request for executing said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~,

determines whether or not said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~ corresponds to said second program on the basis of said association,

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executes said first program and sends a second request to said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices when said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~ corresponds to said second program, said second request including instructions to execute said second program,

receives execution results produced by the execution of said second program ~~results of said second request~~ from one or more of said ~~plurality of~~ devices,

uses the execution results of the second program to generate a response from execution of said first program, and

sends ~~the results~~ to said first computer the ~~in~~ response generated from execution of said first program incorporating the execution results of the second program in reply to said first request~~,~~;

wherein said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices receive said second request, execute said second program and send the execution results ~~as said results of said second request~~ to said management computer without disclosure to the first computer of said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices or said second program~~; and~~

~~wherein the second program executed manages hardware and software resources of the plurality of devices, and the first program executed provides information about the resources of the plurality of devices to the first computer.~~

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27. (Currently Amended)  A computer system according to claim 26, further

comprising:

a second computer coupled to said management computer, said ~~plurality of~~

one or more devices, and said first computer via the network, wherein:

said second computer collects a plurality of location information related to

locations where said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~ or said second program

are stored, stores said plurality of location information with both said ~~one or more~~

first program ~~programs~~ and said second program, and generates said association

information.


28. (Currently Amended)  A computer system according to claim 27, wherein

said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said

~~one or more~~ first program is ~~programs are~~ of a higher level than said second

program associated with said ~~one or more~~ first program ~~programs~~.


29. (Previously Presented)  A computer system according to claim 28, wherein

said second computer determines which program of said first or second

programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said

hierarchy information, and sends, to said first computer, a location of the program

which is a higher level than its associated program.

30.  (Canceled)


31.  (Currently Amended)  A management computer comprising:

a network interface to be coupled to ~~a plurality of~~ one or more devices and a

first computer via a network, said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices not being

disclosed to said first computer;

a processor coupled to said network interface;

a memory coupled to said processor;

wherein said memory stores a ~~plurality of~~ first program ~~programs~~ which is a

target of a request from the first computer and said memory further stores

association information regarding said first program ~~programs~~ and a second program

which is stored in said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices,

wherein said processor receives, via said network interface, a request from

said first computer for executing ~~one of~~ said first program ~~programs~~, refers to said

association information to determine whether said first program as a target to be

executed is associated with said second program,

wherein, when said first program as a target to be executed is associated with

said second program, said processor executes said first program and sends to said

~~plurality of~~ one or more devices via said network interface, an instruction for

executing said second program in said ~~plurality of~~ one or more devices, receives

execution results produced by the executed second program ~~results of said~~

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instruction via said network interface via the network, <u>uses the execution results to</u>

<u>generate a response,</u> and sends, to said first computer, <u>the response as</u> a reply of

said request including said results of instruction, said plurality of <u>one or more</u> devices

and said second program remaining undisclosed to said first computer, and

wherein the second program executed manages hardware and software

resources of the plurality of devices, and the first program executed provides

information about the resources of the plurality of devices to the first computer.

32.  (Previously Presented) A management computer according to claim 31, wherein

said association information includes a hierarchy information indicating

whether said first program is of a higher level than said associated second program.

33. - 37.  (Canceled)

38.  (New)  A computer system comprising:

a management computer storing a first program;

one or more devices coupled to said management computer via a network

and storing a second program;

a first computer coupled to said management computer via the network; and

a second computer coupled to said management computer, said one or more

devices, and said first computer via the network,

wherein said one or more devices and said second program are not disclosed to said first computer,

wherein said second computer collects location information related to locations where said first program and said second program are stored, stores said plurality of location information with both said first program and said second program, and generates association information related to a dependency association between said first program and said second program,

wherein said management computer:

receives, from said first computer, a first request for executing said first program,

determines whether or not said first program corresponds to said second program on the basis of said association information,

executes said first program and sends a second request to said one or more devices when said first program corresponds to said second program, said second request including instructions to execute said second program,

receives execution results produced by the execution of said second program from one or more of said devices,

uses the execution results of the second program to generate a response from execution of said first program, and

sends the response generated by said first program to said first computer in reply to said first request,

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wherein said one or more devices receive said second request, execute said

second program and send the execution results to said management computer

without disclosure to the first computer of said one or more devices or said second

program.


39. (New) A computer system according to claim 38, wherein

said association information is a hierarchy information indicating whether said

first program is of a higher level than said second program associated with said first

program.


40. (New) A computer system according to claim 39, wherein

said second computer determines which program of said first or second

programs is of a higher level than its associated program on the basis of said

hierarchy information, and sends, to said first computer, a location of the program

which is a higher level than its associated program.